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Insular Vegetation.—Great Duck Island is one of the outer islands of Penobscot Bay, Maine, and lies about 12 miles south of Mt. Desert Island. It has a length of one and a half mile, with a breadth of less than half a mile. The following plants were noticed upon it, during a two hours visit on 26th of August last:

Ranunculus Cymbalaria, Pursh.
Coptis trifolia, Salisb.
Capsella Bursa-pastoris, Moench.
Viola.
Drosera rotundifolia, L.
Hypericum Canadense, L.
Elodes Virginica, Nutt.
Stellaria media, Sm.
Cerastium viscosum, L.
Sagina procumbens, L.
Oxalis Acetosella, L.
Potentilla Canadensis, L.
P. argentea, L.
P. Norvegica, L.
Pyrus Americana, DC.
Hippuris vulgaris, L.
Circæa alpina, L.
Epilobium coloratum, Muhl.
Aster acuminatus, Mx.
Achillea Millefolium, L.
Gnaphalium uliginosum, L.
Senecio vulgaris, L.
Cirsium lanceolatum, Scop.
C. arvense, Scop.
Vaccinium Pennsylvanicum, Lam.
V. Vitis-Idæa, L.
Chiogenes hispidula, T. & Gr.
Trientalis Americana, Pursh.
Euphrasia officinalis, L.
Lycopus Virginicus, L.
Scutellaria galericulata, L.
Polygonum incarnatum, Ell.
Rumex Acetosella, L.
Empetrum nigrum, L.
Abies nigra, Poir.
A. alba, Mx.
A. balsamea, Marsh.
Iris versicolor, L.
Smilacina bifolia, Ker.
Juncus.
Hordeum jubatum, L.
Hierochloa borealis, R. &. S.
Aspidium spinulosum, Sw.
Osmunda (prob. *cinnamomea*, L.)

The species printed in Roman seem to be recent introductions on the cleared portions of the island, perhaps by the agency of sheep and birds. The remaining species belong to the flora of the neighboring mainland.

John H. Redfield.

George W. Clinton, LL.D.—In Professor Gray's brief mention of the death of Judge Clinton (contained in the last number of the *American Journal of Science*), the statement is made that, at the time of his death, he was probably the oldest of American botanists. There seems to be no reason for questioning the fact; and thus in the death of this venerable man another of the links which united the students of the present generation with those of the past has been broken.

Judge Clinton belonged to a family renowned in the history of this State. His grandfather was General James Clinton of the Continental Army, his granduncle was George Clinton, the first governor of the State, and his father was DeWitt Clinton, also, for several terms, the governor of the State, and yet more greatly distinguished as the author and chief promoter of the scheme of internal improvements which raised the commonwealth to the foremost place in the sisterhood of states. DeWitt Clinton, himself, during his entire life, was a devoted student of nature. In a pre-eminent degree, he was the friend and patron of naturalists and men of science, finding in their society and conversation the highest satisfaction. It is his name (because of his interest in science and especially botany) that is perpetuated in the genus *Clintonia* of Rafinesque. Samuel L. Mitchell, David Hosack and Amos Eaton, botanists of eighty years ago, were among his intimate friends. It is therefore not strange that in the influence of such associations, his son, the late Judge Clinton, should have found such taste for scientific pursuits as were his by inheritance strengthened and stimulated.

Born in New York City, on the 13th day of April, 1807, George William Clinton, as early as his eighteenth year, was a devoted student of botany and a zealous and indefatigable collector. A diary, kept by him at this early age, including the notes of an excursion made by him into the western part of the State, immediately after the completion of the Erie Canal, is still in existence to testify to that conscientious regard for scientific truth, which, to the close of his life, distinguished him. The little volume seems to recognize Professor Amos Eaton, of the Rennselaer Institute, as the guide of his botanical studies. His correspondence at this period, a portion of which is still preserved, shows that he was in receipt of letters from Rafinesque and others, whose names, to us, seem almost to belong to a mythological age.

His father died suddenly in February, 1828, while still governor; and, almost at once, upon the advice of near friends, among whom was Chief Justice Ambrose Spencer, he relinquished the study of medicine, to which he had already given the attention of two or three years, and, abandoning altogether the natural sciences, engaged with characteristic ardor and assiduity in the study of the law. As though to make his divorce from his earlier pursuits the more complete, he gave away his herbarium and his botanical library. Thereafter, for nearly half a century, he devoted himself to his profession, practising at the bar for more than twenty-three years, and, afterwards, occupying an honored place in the judiciary of the State for more than twenty-four years.

In 1836, he became a resident of Buffalo, where he lived until 1881, the recipient of the highest honors which his towns-people could bestow. His great ability and high character were recognized by the State in his appointment as one of the Regents of the University, in 1856; and Hamilton College, his *alma mater*, about the same time, honored him with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

In 1861, upon the establishment of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, he accepted its presidency; and thereupon, returning to his first love, with all the devotion of his youth, he began an unremitting and most industrious exploration of the botany of the region in which he lived, giving to the undertaking almost all the leisure which remained after the performance of public and private duties. It may seem strange, yet the statement scarcely requires qualification, that in the interval of thirty-three years in which his attention had been turned aside from botanical pursuits, so complete had been his neglect of the favorite study of his early days, that, although he remembered a large proportion of the native plants of his neighborhood, he was almost entirely unacquainted with the natural system of classification of plants, and with the changes in their nomenclature. But the fact was to him only a trifling and temporary obstacle; and he was soon perfectly familiar with the leading principles of modern botanical classification.

It was characteristic of Judge Clinton that in his most earnest labors there was no thought of self. His arduous and unremitting efforts in the establishment of a herbarium in Buffalo were wholly for the benefit of the Society of which he was the chief. He collected most abundantly, and his specimens, by exchange, went into many hands. Those which he received in return were added to the collection of the Society, until, at the time when he removed from Buffalo, it embraced, as is supposed, specimens of more than 20,000 species of plants. These had all been mounted, labeled, arranged and catalogued by his own hands. The collection thus illustrates not only the flora of his neighborhood, but, very largely, that of the world.

How often his researches were rewarded by the discovery of plants not previously known or suspected in the vicinity of Buffalo, the later editions of Gray's Manual will bear witness. No name occurs more frequently than his as the authority that a certain plant occurs in some named locality. Yet, perhaps, after all, the abundance of species of the plants of Buffalo, as compared with those of other places, may prove to be due rather to the persistency and completeness of his explorations than to the fact that the vicinity of Buffalo is especially rich in species.

His labors being confined almost entirely to the neighborhood of Buffalo, the plants new to science which were detected by him could not be great in number. *Scirpus Clintonii*, Gray, *Aspidium cristatum*, Swartz, var. *Clintonianum*, Eaton, and several fungi, described by Mr. Peck, perpetuate his name.

Judge Clinton possessed, in a remarkable degree, the gift of eloquence. Upon topics of a scientific character he was a frequent and delightful speaker. The public was always anxious to hear him. It is probable, however, that his contributions to the press will be longest remembered. His style was most agreeable. Many of the observations which he made in his excursions were published in a series of papers printed in the Sunday *Courier*, of Buffalo, entitled "Notes of a Botanist." Nothing, perhaps, more characteristic of the man ever emanated from his pen. They aimed at none of the startling attempts at hypothesis and generalization which have been not inaptly called the "romance of science." He could present the truth with almost photographic fidelity, and yet, by the charm of a style of unusual beauty, he could make his matter as agreeable as a fairy tale.

His removal to Albany, in 1881, was occasioned by his being called there to arrange for publication the papers of Gov. George Clinton, now the property of the State. He found this labor one of great pleasure. Yet he would at times indulge himself in a botanical excursion into the suburbs of the city. In one of these, which he undertook on the 7th of September, 1885, he visited the Rural Cemetery, where, within a short time after he had passed through its gates, he was found dead. Only a few minutes before, he had been seen gathering botanical specimens, and apparently in as perfect health as can attend old age.

Thus at the very close of life, he was in the enjoyment of the things which he had always loved so well—the green turf, the blue sky and the sweet, autumnal air.

> "Then with no fiery, throbbing pain,
> No cold gradations of decay,
> Death broke at once the vital chain,
> And freed his soul the nearest way."

DAVID F. DAY.

Botanical Notes.

*Botanical Work of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.**—The Ann Arbor meeting of the Association, just closed, proved of more than usual interest to the botanists. There was a notable increase in the permanent value of the papers. They were more thoughtful, as a rule, than those presented at previous meetings, and came up more nearly to the standard demanded by the science of to-day. Below we give brief abstracts, which will show the general nature of the papers.

"An Observation on the Hybridization and Cross-breeding of Plants," by E. Lewis Sturtevant. This gave in detail the observations on crossed beans, maize, barley, peppers, tomatoes, lettuce and peas, made at the New York Agricultural Experiment Station. As a result of the observations the author concludes that in our domesticated vegetable plants cross-fertilization shows its effects at once in the reproduction of the form-species and varieties which are involved in the parentage of the crossed seed, or, in other words, the effect is *atavism* rather than a blending of properties.

"Germination Studies," by the same author, gave the results of making numerous duplicate germinations, showing that different percentage-results are obtained as the quantity of seeds used is large or small. The influence of various temperatures was also discussed.

"The Question of Bisexuality in the Pond-scums," by Charles E. Bessey. It has been held by some botanists that the pond-scums (Zygnemaceæ) show a distinct bisexuality, one of the filaments being male, the other female. Certain facts were presented which render such a view untenable. In many plants the cells of the same filament fertilize one another, as is notably the case in the forms which have been described as *Rhynchonema.* Several cases of hybridization were cited in which two filaments, both of which bore resting-spores, united with one another and produced a hybrid spore. The conclusion was that the pond-scums are not bisexual, but rather unisexual, that is, that while sexuality undoubtedly exists, there is as yet no differentiation into the proper male and female. Accordingly these plants must take a position just above the asexual prototypes, but below the clearly bisexual oöphytes.

"The Process of Fertilization in *Campanula Americana,*" by Charles R. Barnes. This species is strongly proterandrous. The

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* From the *American Naturalist.*